

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

A G E N D A

TOWN OF CHINCOTEAGUE

March 28, 2007 - 5:30 P.M. – Council Chambers - Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

OPEN FORUM / PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

AGENDA ADOPTION:

1. Consider Adoption of the Revised Chapter 62, Article II, Division 2, Rates
2. Committee member comments

ADJOURN:

DIVISION 2. RATES, CHARGES AND BILLING

Sec. 62-56. Rates.

(a) A water rates **schedule** shall be established and ~~adjusted as necessary~~ **adopted each year** by majority vote of the council.

(b) A minimum rate applies to all accounts after the minimum allowed usage and an additional dollar amount is applied per 1000 gallons. ~~The following table applies to 5/8 and 3/4 residential, commercial and other size water meter connections, subject to a review by council for a 3% increase each year.~~

(Amended 04/02/06)

| Meter Size (inches) | Minimum Bill (Quarter) | Allowed Usage (gallons) | Per 1,000 gallons Over Allowance |
|------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5/8 & 3/4 | \$20 residential | 6,000 | \$3.54 |
| | \$35 commercial | 6,000 | \$3.86 |
| 1 | \$88 | 15,000 | \$3.86 |
| 1.5 | \$175 | 30,000 | \$3.86 |
| 2 | \$280 | 48,000 | \$3.86 |
| 3 | \$560 | 96,000 | \$3.86 |
| 4* | \$875 | 150,000 | \$3.86 |
| 6 | \$1750 | 300,000 | \$3.86 |
| 8 | \$2800 | 480,000 | \$3.86 |

~~*One meter currently in the system is to be charged \$4.94 per 1000 gallons over the allowed usage.~~

(Amended 04/20/06)

(c) Water rates shall not be applied to connections for fire suppression systems described in section 62-57, except when water provided through such connections has been used for other than fire suppression. In such wrongful use, penalties described under section 62-27 shall apply.

(d) Water rates shall not be applied to churches and certain other nonprofit organizations except in cases where water usage exceeds forty thousand (40,000) gallons per quarter. In such cases, the church or nonprofit organization shall be charged at the commercial rate for the water used in excess of forty thousand (40,000) gallons.

(Code 1977, § 15-1-1; Ord. of 4-5-1999, § 15-1-1)

Sec. 62-57. Connection fees and availability fees.

(a) New connections to the water system shall be charged at the rate **established by the town council** of \$550.00 for a five-eighths-inch by three-fourths-inch meter with three-fourths-inch connecting pipe, \$1,000.00 for a one-inch meter and two-inch connecting pipe, and \$1,350.00 for a two-inch meter and two-inch connecting pipe plus all additional related costs incurred by the town..

(Amended 03/16/06)

(b) The cost of service connections which are made to the system to provide for fire

suppression systems shall be determined on a case-by-case basis as dictated by the requirements of individual fire suppression systems. Connection and meter sizes for fire suppression systems shall be determined by the size of the suppression system. Connections for fire suppression systems shall be made only by the town.

(c) Although water usage rates are not applied to churches and certain other nonprofit organizations, service connection fees and availability fees shall be charged ~~as applicable to the connection and meter as described in subsection (a) of this section.~~ **in accordance with this article.** (Code 1977, § 15-1-2; Ord. of 4-5-1999, § 15-1-2)
(Amended 04/20/06)

(d) ~~The following schedule table was adopted April 20, 2006,~~ **An availability fee as established by the town council shall be charged** and the amount shall be collected prior to the installation of the meter.

| Meter Size (inches) | Availability Fee |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 5/8 & 3/4 | \$3,600 |
| 1 | \$9,000 |
| 1.5 | \$18,000 |
| 2 | \$28,800 |
| 3 | \$57,600 |
| 4 | \$90,000 |
| 6 | \$180,000 |
| 8 | \$288,000 |

(Amended 04/20/06)

(e) Condominiums are to be charged an availability fee ~~of \$3,600~~ **as established by the town council** per living unit but supplied by a master meter with the minimum billing based on the size of the meter.

(Amended 04/20/06)

Sec. 62-58. Billing and other charges.

(a) All water bills for residences, hotels, motels, rooming houses, cottages, trailer parks and all rental dwellings or rental property shall be charged to the property owner and not to the tenant.

(b) Water meters shall be read quarterly, and water bills shall be delinquent 30 days after the end of the quarter. A customer shall receive a second notice granting ten days to either pay the delinquent bill or to appear before the town manager to present reasons why service should not be terminated. If the town manager makes the decision to terminate service, the customer may appeal such decision to the public works committee of the town council by filing the appeal, in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the date of termination. If such appeal is filed, service will not be terminated until after a hearing and decision by the public works committee. No service shall be reconnected without payment of all delinquent

charges plus a reconnection charge ~~of \$40.00~~ **as established by the town council**. Services shall only be reconnected during regular town business hours between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., with such business hours occurring from Monday through Friday, except on certain days observed as holidays by the town.

(c) Any person voluntarily disconnecting service, other than seasonal, shall be charged a fee ~~of \$25.00~~ **as established by the town council** for each reconnection. Reconnections shall be made only during regular business hours described in subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Any service disconnected on a seasonal basis shall be billed at the minimum quarterly rate or at an amount commensurate to the usage, during the period of disconnection.

(e) A change of ownership fee ~~of \$25.00~~ **as established by the town council** shall be charged to a water account transferred due to such a change.
(Code 1977, § 15-1-3; Ord. of 4-5-1999, § 15-1-3)

Sec. 62-59. Water bill adjustments.

(a) *Adjustments to correct inaccurate readings.* Adjustments to water bills to correct inaccurate readings shall be made in accordance with the following:

(1) Adjustments to water bills may be applied by the town to correct inaccurate reading of meters or incorrect readings caused by faulty meters. During the reading cycle, the town will automatically check anomalous readings to ensure accuracy.

(2) If a property owner wishes to contest the accuracy of a meter reading and subsequent water bill, he may request that the meter be checked or tested to verify the accuracy of the reading or the meter. If, after checking or testing the meter, the reading is found to be correct, the account will be charged ~~\$25.00~~ **a fee as established by the town council**. If the meter or reading is found to be faulty or incorrect, the water bill will be adjusted accordingly.